

ABOUT BOOKS

That Beautiful Little Post

The Story of Fort Missoula

By Gary Glynn

Published October 2013 by Big Elk Books and the Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT

\$24.95 softcover

Historian Gary Glynn tells the colorful story of the frontier military outpost at Fort Missoula in his new book, *That Beautiful Little Post*.

The full-color, 144-page book features a complete account of the origins of the post in 1877, including the encounter between two companies of the 7th Infantry and the Nez Perce at Fort Fizzle, the participation of the Fort Missoula garrison at the bloody battle of the Big Hole, and the subsequent construction of the fort by a battalion of the Third Infantry.

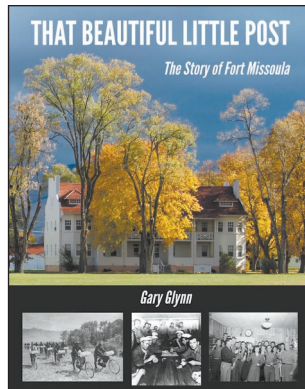
Ride along with the black soldiers of the 25th Infantry as they pedaled bicycles to St. Louis in 1897, and witness the renovation of the fort in the early 1900s as it became the “Million Dollar Post,” only to be abandoned by the Army shortly afterward.

Reoccupied by the Fourth Infantry in 1921, the fort then became a regional headquarters of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s, as well as the Alien Detention Center where Italian and Japanese citizens were imprisoned from 1941 to 1944, and an Army Disciplinary Barracks at the end of World War II.

Although the military presence has now ended, Fort Missoula has been transformed into a treasured community asset and tourist attraction that is home to museums, parks, golf courses, public agencies and nonprofit groups.

“Compelling and fast-paced ... the only comprehensive history of this unique and beautiful little post,” writes Dr. Robert M. Brown, director of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

Glynn is the owner of Big Elk Books and the author of several nonfiction books on Montana history, including *Montana’s Home Front During World War II*, *Historic Photos of Montana*, and *Remembering Montana*.



You Are My Sunshine

By Stanley Gordon West

Published 2013 by Lexington-Marshall Publishing, Shakopee, MN

\$16 softcover

Stanley Gordon West’s new novel spans three generations of a hardy ranching family, building their dream in the mid-1800s in a remote Montana valley.

The ranch’s founder, Abraham Rockhammer, knew from the time he was a child growing up in Ohio that someday he would travel west and build a cattle ranch, where he would raise a large family and find fulfillment. Over time, the dream becomes a reality, but not without setbacks and loss.

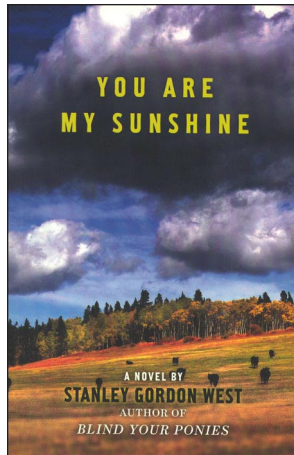
Two subsequent generations of Rockhammer children are born and raised on the ranch. Some stay, and some move away to find careers in other parts of the country, but all remain deeply connected to their family and their grandfather’s heritage. Central to the novel is a love story between two young people who must keep their relationship a secret and, as a result, part ways for years.

When a neighbor begins a mining operation, his demand for an easement across the ranch threatens to break a promise grandfather Abraham made to a Blackfeet chief never to scar the landscape. Refusing to give in to the demand puts the family in harm’s way and tragedy is narrowly averted with the appearance of a legendary figure from Abraham’s era.

The story is rich with descriptions of the land and the people who cherish it. Family secrets unfold and, in the end, there is closure of old wounds.

West is the author of several novels, including the popular *Blind Your Ponies*. He lived in Montana for several years and raised his family here before returning to Minnesota.

— Judy Shafter



Montana Beer A Guide to Breweries in Big Sky Country

By Ryan Newhouse

Published 2013 by The History Press, Charleston, SC

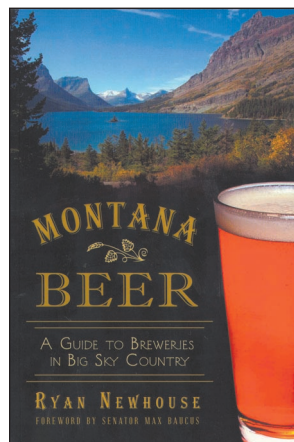
\$19.99 softcover

Ryan Newhouse begins his enthusiastic portrait of contemporary Montana craft breweries with a history of brewing in Montana, pointing out that in 1900, only 11 years after statehood, “21 breweries were in operation.”

He goes on to explain, “In 1902, Montana breweries were turning out five million barrels of beer, roughly 21 gallons for every resident in the state at the time (including children).” The H. S. Gilbert Brewery in Virginia City is thought to be the first established producer in the state, and met its demise when Prohibition was enforced.

Nowadays, the state boasts more small craft breweries per capita than nearly anywhere else in the U.S. in an industry that employs hundreds of people. Montana’s good pure water and abundant barley production give brewers the edge in turning out some of the country’s best micro-brewed beers. Efforts are in progress to produce commercial hops, too.

Newhouse divides the state into six regions and takes readers on an engaging road trip. Readers meet the brew masters, discover the origins of their establishments, learn the names of their beers and find out what their taprooms



and restaurants have to offer. Helpfully, he even notes hours of operation for the brewery tasting rooms and restaurants.

There are many interesting stories behind the building of several of Montana’s breweries. Nolan and Cathy Smith, along with partner Rob Jrviss, of Philipsburg Brewing Company spent 18 years planning and three years of hard work to bring their dream to a reality. Unique to their brewpub is a refrigerated copper strip that keeps the patron’s beer cold as they sit and sip at the bar – very smart!

Is there such a thing as a “destination brewery”? Beaver Creek Brewery in Wibaux is surely a candidate. It’s the only craft-beer stop on the 600-mile stretch of highway between Fargo, ND, and Billings.

The book is a wonderful resource for beer drinkers who appreciate a finely crafted brew and want to expand their knowledge of this growing Montana phenomenon (and delight their taste buds).

Newhouse lives in Montana and works as a full-time freelance writer, covering a wide variety of subjects. He writes a beer blog, MontanaBeerFinder.com, and is a co-founder of Missoula Craft Beer Week.

— Judy Shafter

Sweet Thunder

By Ivan Doig

Published 2013 by Riverhead Books, New York, NY

\$27.95 hardcover

After a year-long honeymoon, Morrie Morgan, aka Morgan Llewellyn, returns to Butte – where we last met him in Ivan Doig’s *Work Song*. This time, instead of helping out at the city library, he’s hired as the editorial writer for an upstart daily, the *Thunder*, established to take on the copper collar that encircles the city, courtesy of the all-powerful Anaconda Company.

But even as he writes scathing editorials under the pen name Pluvius, his past threatens to overtake him. He worries that the Chicago mob might catch wind of his whereabouts. After all, Morrie has a death warrant on two counts: throwing a championship wrestling match, and then profitably betting against the Chicago White Sox in the 1919 World Series. To make matters worse, his new wife, Grace, knows nothing of his speckled history; and he’s been mistaken for the infamous local bootlegger, known simply as The Highliner.

Fortunately, the beleaguered wordsmith has a few allies: Sandy Sandison, a mountain of a man who presides over the Butte Public Library, and bequeathed his extra-large mansion to Morrie and Grace; and his friends at the *Thunder*, including union organizer and state senator Jared Evans, editor Armbrister, who “wore a trademark green eyeshade and the expression of a hound dog on a cold trail,” and nimble newsboy Russian Famine.

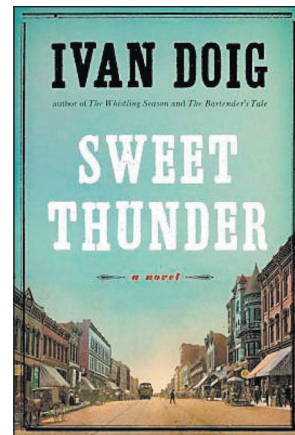
Together, they take aim at the company mouthpiece, the *Butte Daily Post*. Morrie, with his encyclopedic knowledge of history and literature, is chief wordsmith. His job: “to tear the living hide off Anaconda, day after day.”

He does this deftly, until the company hires its own wordslinger, Cutthroat Cartwright, “the most famous and feared columnist in the savage pages of Chicago journalism,” and someone who just might ferret out Morrie’s true identity.

The word war escalates in pace with efforts to make the Anaconda Company pay its fair share of taxes, and takes a toll on miners, who are locked out from their jobs. At the same time, Morrie’s domestic bliss shatters when Grace discovers her husband is not who he seems, but rather, “a chameleon on a barber pole.”

Expect another spirited romp through the Mining City’s turbulent history from Doig, author of 11 previous novels and three works of nonfiction. Like the irrepressible Morrie, he’s drawn back to “this tortured, boastful, inventive, grudge-ridden, wisecracking city, built not upon bedrock but copper ore, was impossible to banish, like some wayward family member you can’t help but keep in touch with.”

— Kristi Niemeyer



The Road Taken

The Life Story of James O. Southworth

By James O. Southworth

Published 2013 by the author, Billings, MT

\$23.50 softcover

Billings resident James Southworth became interested in writing his life story after doing some genealogical research on his family and realized that there were untold stories, gone forever with the passing of his ancestors.

He was born into a hard-scrabble existence in Columbus in 1929, the middle son in a family of five children. He offers a here’s-what-I-did-and-here’s-how-I-lived narrative.

There were many jobs, a stint in the Air Force, where he obtained his G.E.D. and practical skills that would serve him well, later in life. He married more than once, and raised three children.

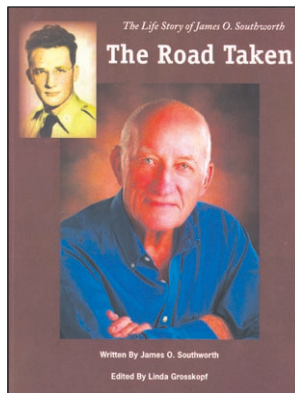
One of his proudest accomplishments was election to the Montana House of Representatives in 1991. In the author’s own words, “What an experience! I’ll never forget it, and I was proud to be there.”

Playing music in several bluegrass bands over the years has given Southworth a great deal of pleasure, as well as his passion for writing. A number of his stories and articles have appeared in regional publications, including the *Billings Outpost*. Several are included in the back of the book.

His work reads like a “good conversation with a friend over coffee” in the words of the Laurel *Outlook* staff member Jennifer Ries. Many photographs and a timeline of the author’s family history are included.

The title of the book is a divergence from a Robert Frost poem, “The Road Not Taken,” and indeed, he steers readers down “The Road Taken” instead. Copies of his book can be ordered by mail: P.O. Box 20365, Billings, MT 59164-0365.

— Judy Shafter



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Farcountry Press invites writers, photographers and illustrators to submit their book ideas for consideration.

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